

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1-24 (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) A computer storage medium comprising a stream of stored instructions, the stream of stored instructions including

- a first instruction including a format field ~~which~~ that specifies an instruction compression format; and
- a second instruction, following the first instruction, that is compressed according to the format field in the first instruction.

26. (new) The medium of claim 25, wherein the second instruction includes a compressed operation, the compressed operation being compressed according to the first format field.

27. (new) The medium of claim 26 wherein the second instruction includes a second format field that specifies a compression of an operation in a third instruction.

28. (new) A computer storage medium comprising a stored VLIW instruction, the instruction comprising a plurality of operations including non-null operations, each operation having an executable form having a respective executable operation length, each non-null operation being stored on the medium in a respective compressed form according to a compression scheme which assigns a respective

compressed operation length to that non-null operation, the compressed operation length being less than the executable operation length.

29. (new) The medium of claim 28, wherein the plurality of operations are for commencing execution in a same machine cycle on distinct functional units of a VLIW processor.